



For immediate release
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NRHA announces 2018 leadership elections results

Leadership for the National Rural Health Association is secure for 2018 and beyond, thanks to recent elections for Board of Trustees and Rural Health Congress positions.

NRHA members chose David Pearson as president-elect. Pearson, who recently joined the American Hospital Association as a regional executive representing members in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, will assume the duties of NRHA president in 2019.

“There are times in your life or career, when you need a trusted partner to help guide you. This is that time and NRHA is that partner,” Pearson says. “Through thick and thin, we know that by working together, we can improve our situation and it will take all of us rowing in the same direction to ensure that we secure a safe place for rural in the future healthcare delivery system.”

A long-serving volunteer leader on NRHA’s Board of Trustees, Pearson has advocated for hospitals previously as Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals president and CEO and Texas Office of Rural Health director of operations.

Members selected Pat Schou to serve as NRHA’s board secretary in 2018 and 2019. Schou is executive director of the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network.

Elected in 2016, Tommy Barnhart will serve as president in 2018. Tim Wolters will serve in Pearson’s place as NRHA’s interim board treasurer in 2018.

NRHA is pleased to announce all individuals elected by their peers to serve in leadership roles.

Board of Trustees officers

- **President-elect:** Dave Pearson, Austin, Texas
- **Secretary:** Pat Schou, Princeton, Ill.

Constituency Group chairs

- **Frontier:** R. Scott Daniels, Hilo, Hawaii
- **Hospitals and Health Systems:** Leslie Marsh, Lexington, Neb.
- **Public Health:** Alana Knudson, PhD, Bethesda, Md.
- **Research and Education:** Kevin Bennett, Columbia, S.C.
- **Statewide Health Resources:** Sally T. Buck, Duluth, Minn.
- **Students:** Jesse C. Rockmore, Cummings, Ga.

Rural Health Congress representatives

Hospitals and Health Systems:

- Mellie Bridewell, Lake Village, Ark.
- Bob Diehl, San Andreas, Calif.
- Brian Haapala, Portland, Maine
- Nikki King, Batesville, Ind.
- Jeremy Levin, Sauk City, Wisc.
- Maeve McClellan, Kansas City, Mo.
- Rhiannon McDevitt, Brockport, N.Y.
- Steve Parde, Kansas City, Mo.
- Robin Rose, Gibson City, Ill.
- Tanya Sharp, Albion, Neb.
- Deborah Whitley, Waco, Texas
- Lou Ann Wilroy, Centennial, Colo.

Research and Education: Kori Novak, Happy Camp, Calif.

Rural Health Clinic: Michael A. Murray, Clinton, Mo.

Statewide Health Resources:

- Brad Gibbens, Grand Forks, N.D.
- Kristine Sande, Grand Forks, N.D.

NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and wellbeing of rural Americans and providing leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research. NRHA's membership is made up of more than 21,000 diverse individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

RuralHealthWeb.org